

WHY RADICAL LIBRARIANSHIP?

an introduction...

@ijclark

ijclark@riseup.net

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What is it to be radical?

RADICAL



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“...radical simply means
‘grasping things at the root’.”

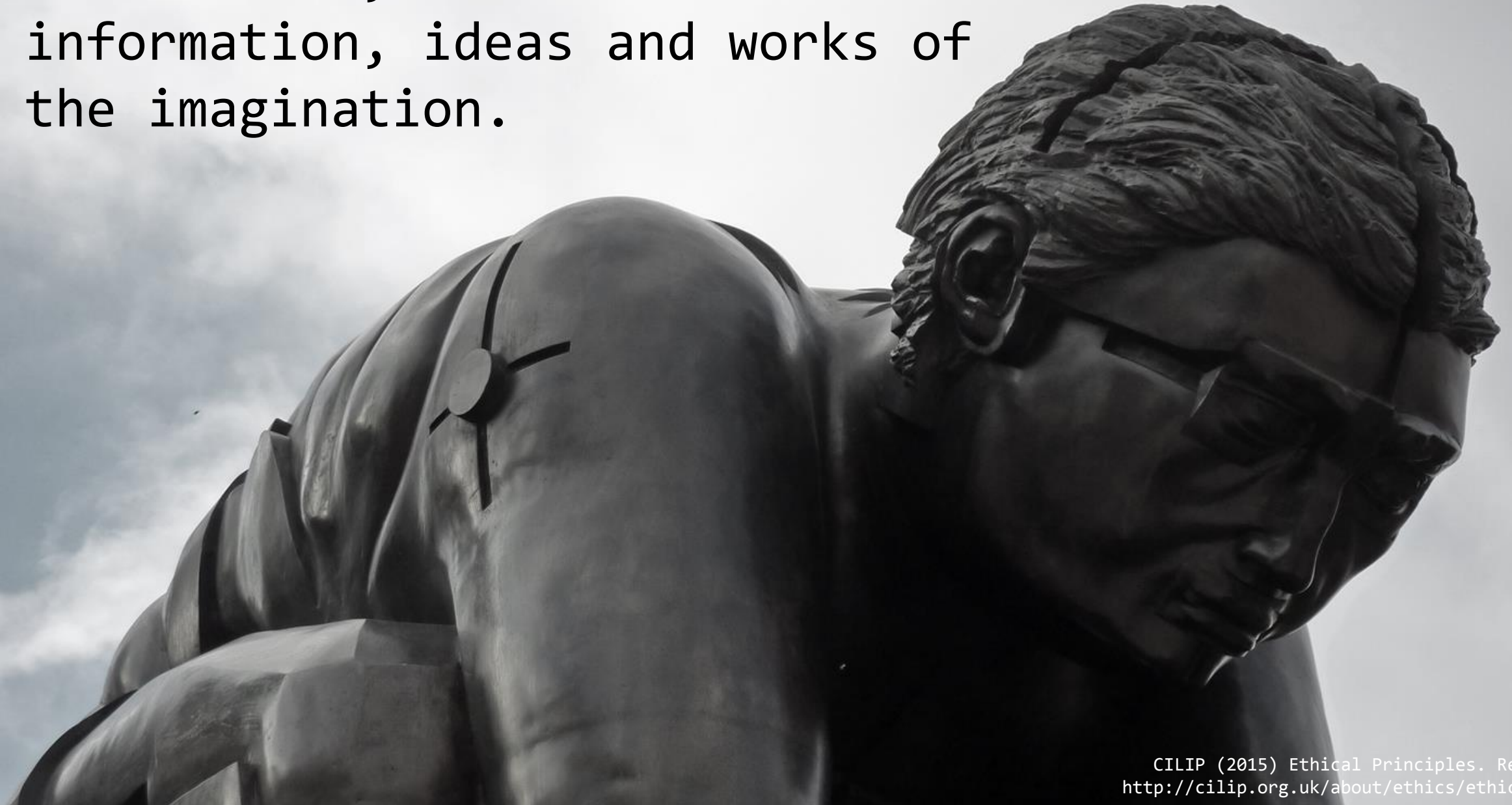
WHAT DISTINGUISHES US FROM **VOLUNTEERS?**



THE ONLY WAY IS **ETHICS...**



Commitment to the defence, and the advancement, of access to information, ideas and works of the imagination.





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FILTER



Respect for
confidentiality
and privacy in
dealing with
information
users.

How can we ensure respect
for confidentiality and
privacy in a modern
surveillance state?





“Small-scale networks such as those in cafes, **libraries** and universities could find themselves targeted under the legislation and forced to hand over customers’ confidential personal data tracking their web use.”

“In a democratic society privacy of communication is essential if citizens are to think and act creatively and constructively. Fear or suspicion that one's speech is being monitored by a stranger, even without the reality of such activity, can have a seriously inhibiting effect upon the willingness to voice critical and constructive ideas.”

President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. (1967). The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society, (February), 1-342. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=42>

“...a 20 percent decline in page views on Wikipedia articles related to terrorism, including those that mentioned ‘al Qaeda,’ ‘car bomb’ or ‘Taliban.’”



“If people are spooked or deterred from learning about important policy matters like terrorism and national security, this is a real threat to proper democratic debate.”



“...initial analysis only scratches the surface of this important area, but it is clear that policymakers need to develop a better understanding of mistrust in the privacy and security of the Internet and the resulting chilling effects. In addition to being a problem of great concern to many Americans, privacy and security issues may reduce economic activity and hamper the free exchange of ideas online.”

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (2016). Lack of Trust in Internet Privacy and Security May Deter Economic and Other Online Activities. Retrieved from <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2016/lack-trust-internet-privacy-and-security-may-deter-economic-and-other-online-activities>

FREEDOM



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SOCIETY



Neoliberalism sees competition as the defining characteristic of human relations. It redefines citizens as consumers, whose democratic choices are best exercised by buying and selling, a process that rewards merit and punishes inefficiency. It maintains that “the market” delivers benefits that could never be achieved by planning.

- George Monbiot

What is neoliberalism?

Neoliberalism n. a political philosophy that argues in favour of privatisation, deregulation, and shrinking of the state to the benefit of the private sector.

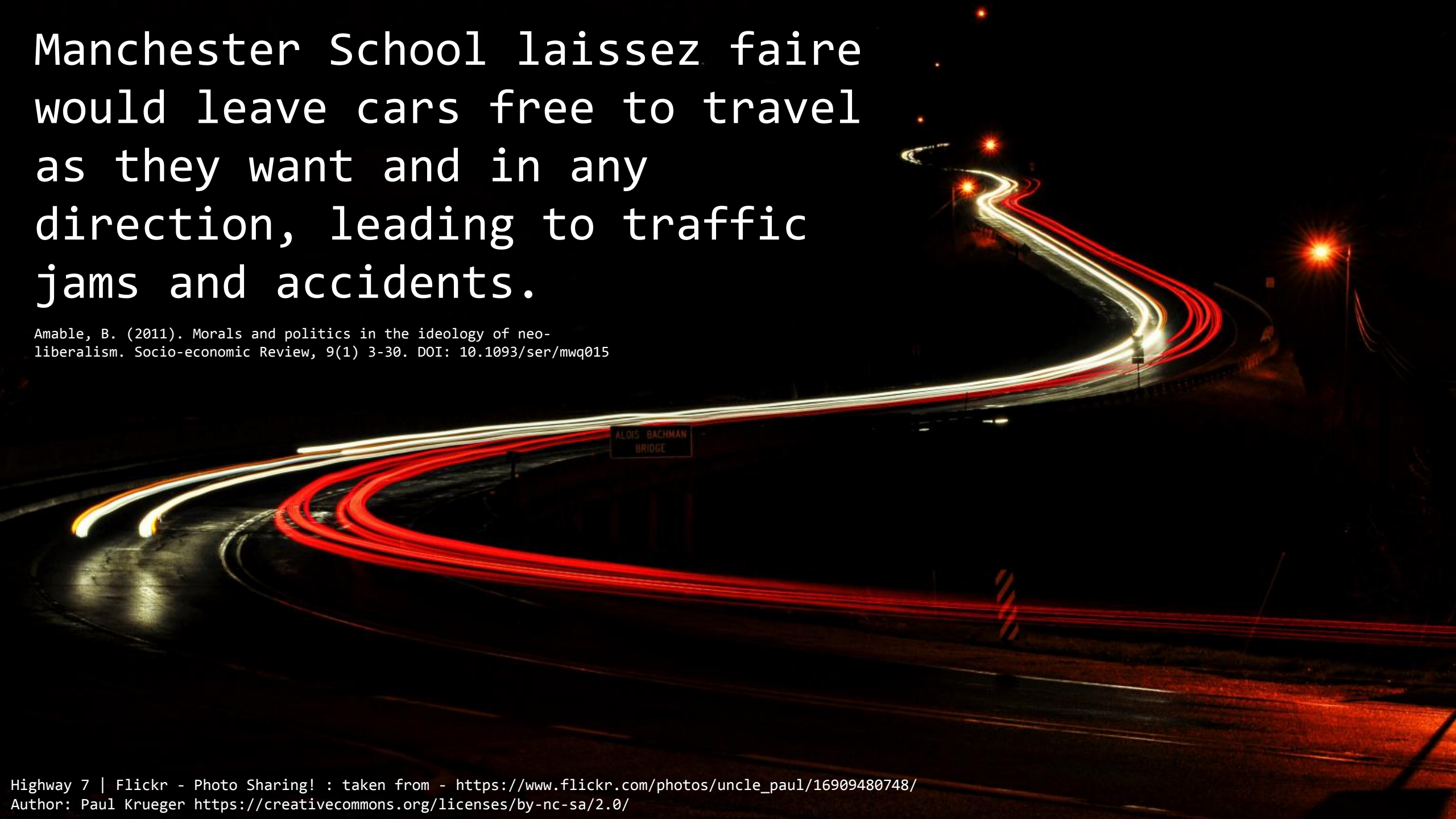
As among the different provinces of a great empire the freedom of the inland trade appears, both from reason and experience, not only the best palliative of a dearth, but the most effectual preventative of a famine; so would the freedom of the exportation and importation trade be among the different states into which a great continent was divided.

Smith, A. (1776). *Wealth of Nations*

Classical economics >
Classical liberals >
Laissez-faire >
Neoliberalism

Manchester School laissez faire
would leave cars free to travel
as they want and in any
direction, leading to traffic
jams and accidents.

Amable, B. (2011). Morals and politics in the ideology of neo-liberalism. Socio-economic Review, 9(1) 3-30. DOI: 10.1093/ser/mwq015

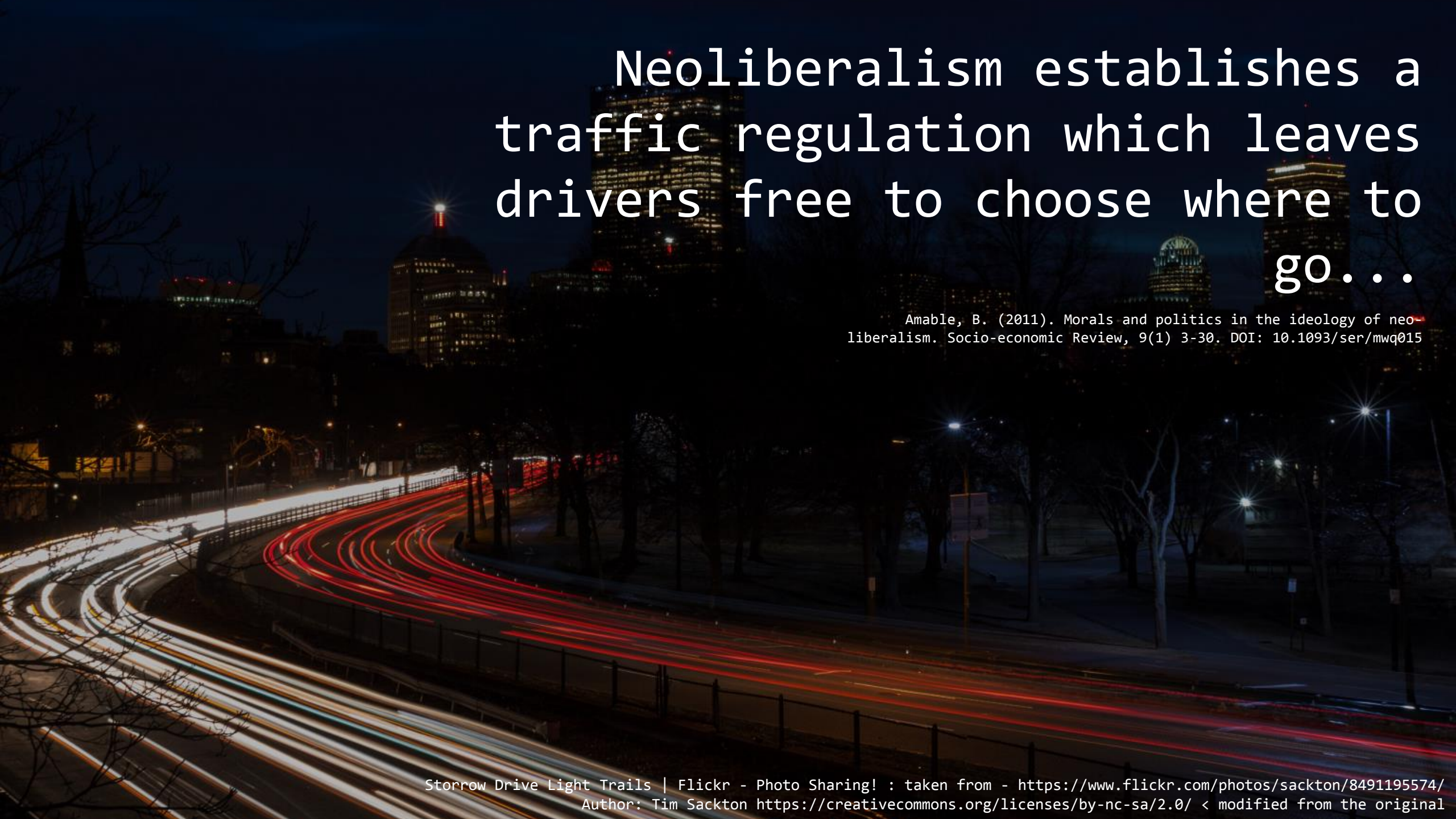


Central planning would tell every driver when to use their car and where to drive.

Amable, B. (2011). Morals and politics in the ideology of neo-liberalism. Socio-economic Review, 9(1) 3-30. DOI: 10.1093/ser/mwq015



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Neoliberalism establishes a
traffic regulation which leaves
drivers free to choose where to
go...

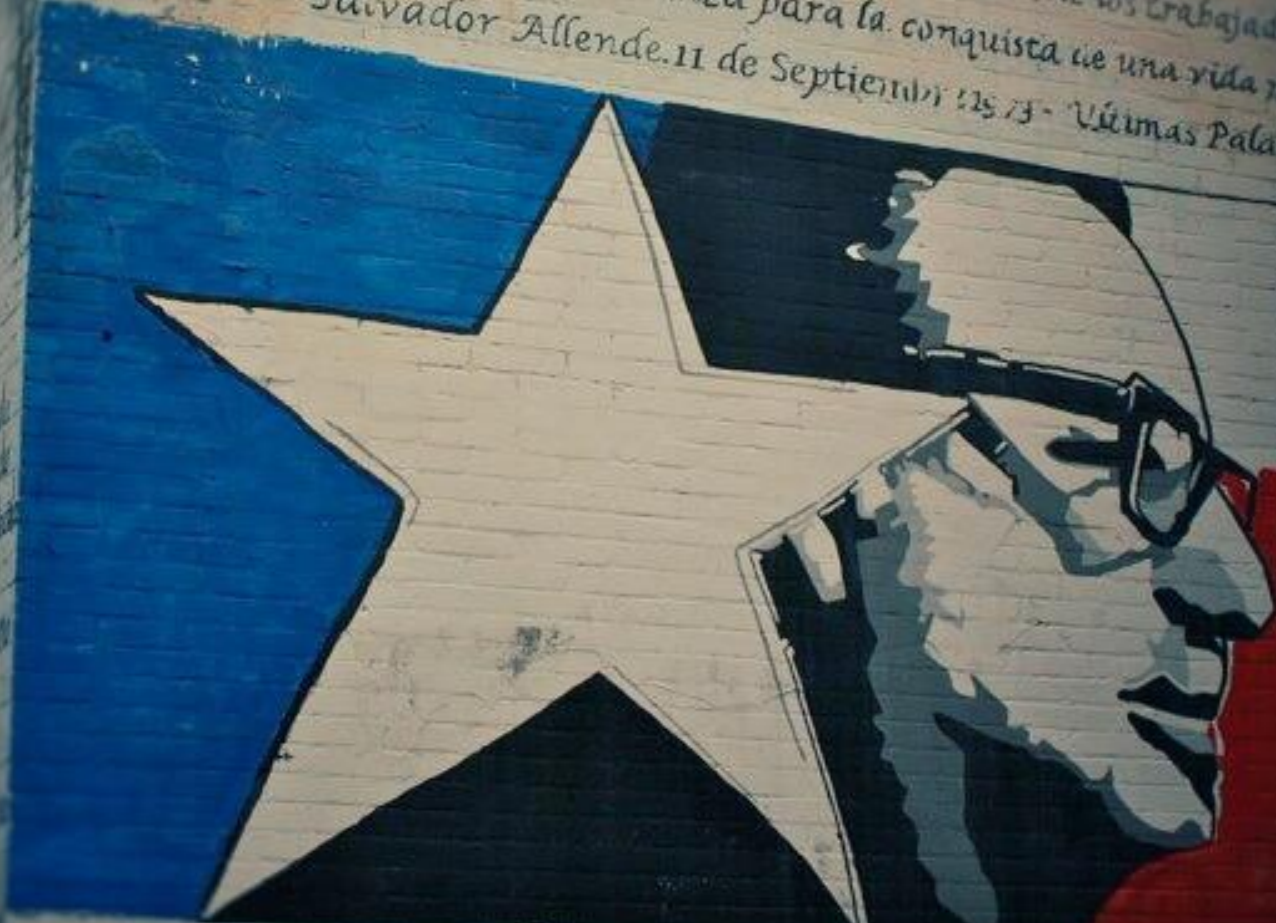
Amable, B. (2011). Morals and politics in the ideology of neoliberalism. Socio-economic Review, 9(1) 3-30. DOI: 10.1093/ser/mwq015

The state has to guarantee, for example, the quality and integrity of money. It must also set up those military, defence, police, and legal structures and functions required to secure private property rights and to guarantee, by force if need be, the proper functioning of markets.

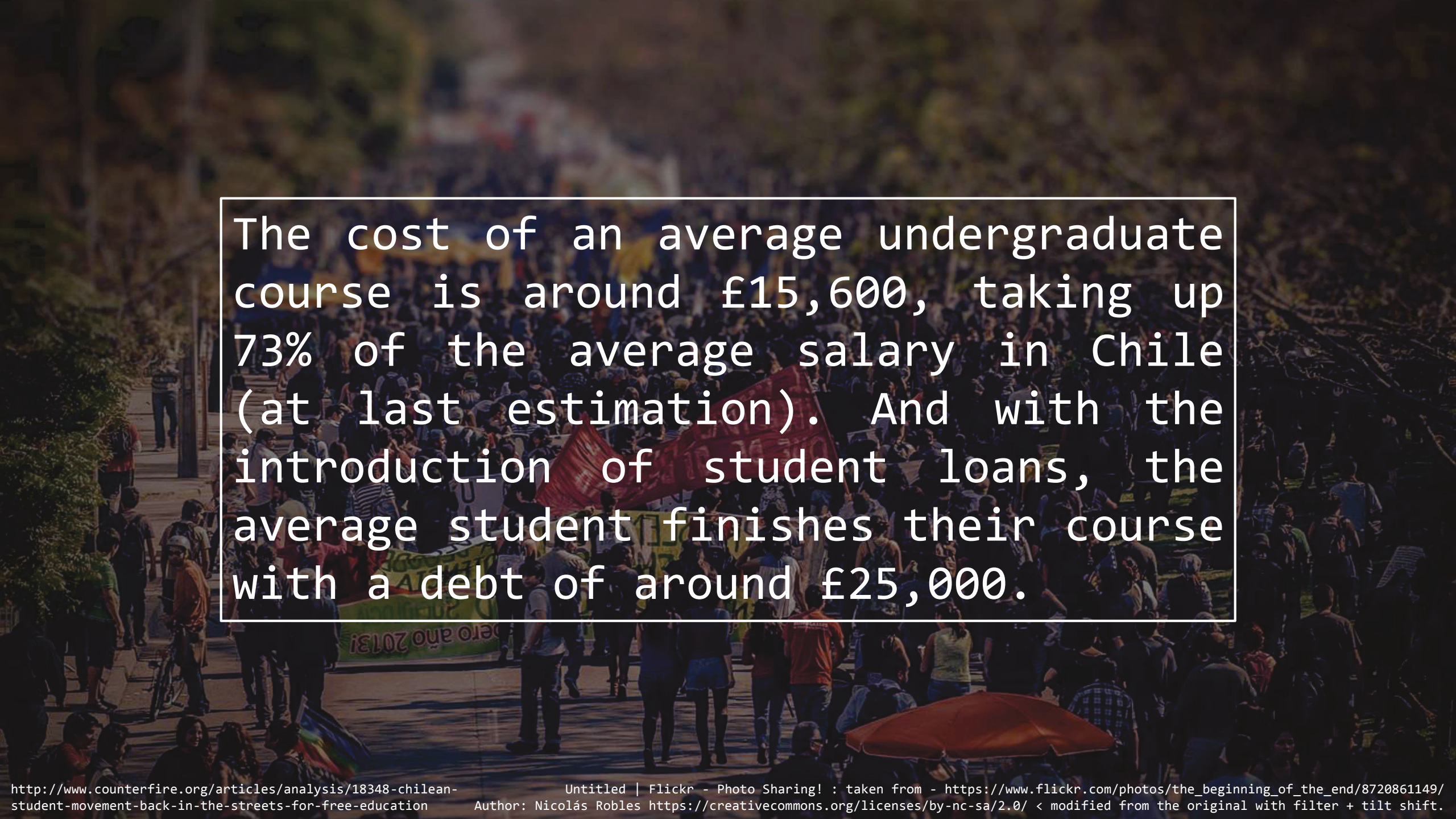
Harvey, D. (2007) *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press.

ALLENDE

La historia no se detiene ni con la represión ni con el crimen
(a) Pero el mañana será del pueblo, será de los trabajadores
La humanidad avanza para la conquista de una vida mejor
Saivador Allende. 11 de Septiembre 1973 - Últimas Palabras:





A large crowd of people is gathered outdoors, likely for a protest or demonstration. The crowd is dense, with many individuals visible. Some people are holding flags, including a Chilean flag. A large red banner is partially visible in the background. The scene is set on a paved area, possibly a street or plaza, with trees and buildings in the background. The lighting suggests it is daytime. A white text box with a black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text about the cost of undergraduate education in Chile.

The cost of an average undergraduate course is around £15,600, taking up 73% of the average salary in Chile (at last estimation). And with the introduction of student loans, the average student finishes their course with a debt of around £25,000.

DECAY

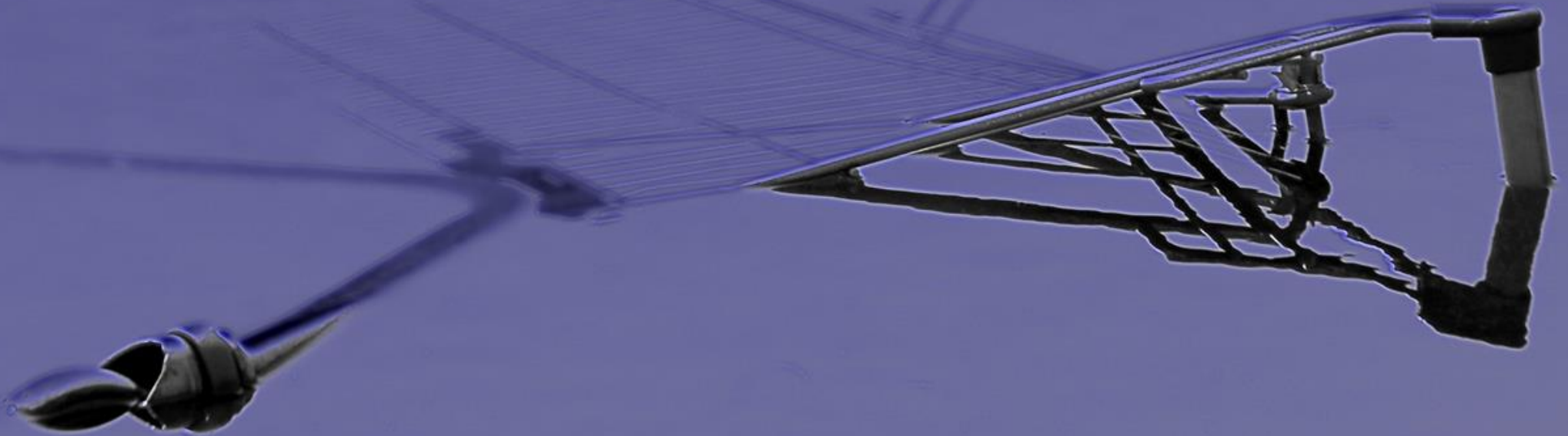


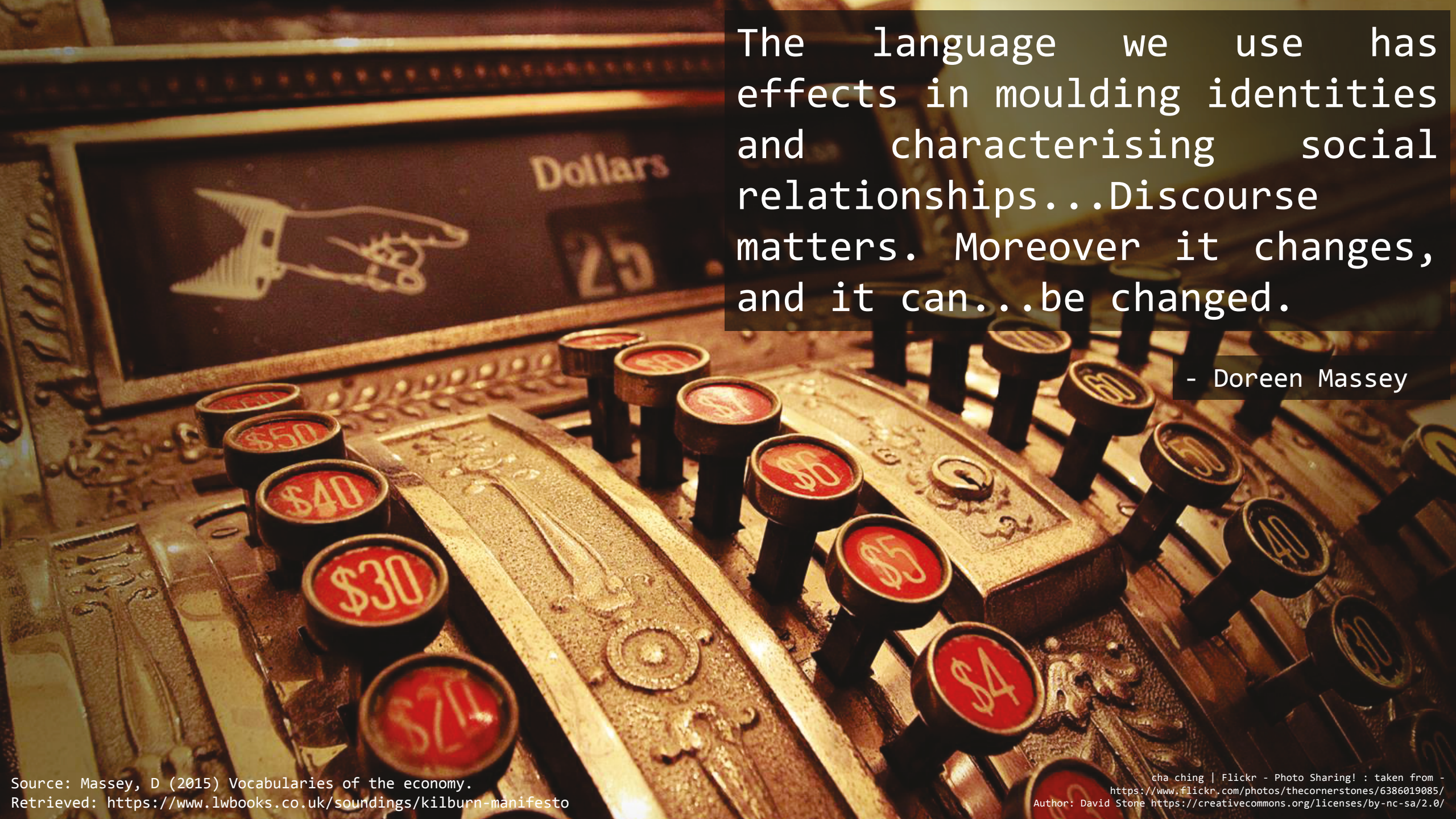
School (Library) | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cmdrcord/7177122603/>
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A core principle of neoliberalism
is that citizens are to be defined
first and foremost as consumers.

Customer (/ˈkʌstəmə/) n. **1** A person who buys goods or services from a shop or business.

CUSTOMER





The language we use has effects in moulding identities and characterising social relationships...Discourse matters. Moreover it changes, and it can...be changed.

- Doreen Massey

A black and white photograph of shooting stars streaking across a dark night sky. The streaks are numerous, varying in length and brightness, and are concentrated in the upper left and center of the frame. The word "COMMODITY" is written in large, bold, white capital letters on the right side of the image.

COMMODITY

Shooting Stars | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from -
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It is a form of terrorism because it abstracts economics from ethics and social costs, makes a mockery of democracy, works to dismantle the welfare state, thrives on militarization, undermines any public sphere not governed by market values, and transforms people into commodities.

- Henry Giroux

In so far as neoliberalism values market exchange as 'an ethic in itself, capable of acting as a guide to all human action, and substituting for all previously held ethical beliefs', it emphasises the significance of contractual relations in the marketplace.

Harvey, D. (2007) *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press.



“...radical simply means
‘grasping things at the root’.”

NEUTRALITY



White flags | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/45051346@N00/3965901338/>
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“A liberal library association would support intellectual freedom, access to information, and liberal democratic political institutions, but wouldn’t go on to make political statements irrelevant to libraries...”

Annoyed Librarian (2006) Libraries as Liberal Institutions. Retrieved from:
<http://annoyedlibrarian.blogspot.co.uk/2006/12/libraries-as-liberal-institutions.html>

Wanting a collection to represent a range of views is a fine goal, but wanting the profession to be neutral on issues that impact our jobs, institutions, and the people we serve is cowardice. It is also unrealistic. People have perspectives, as do publications, collections, databases, search engines, and technologies. Not a single item or person in a library is neutral. There is no way the institution or the profession can be neutral.

Jaeger, Paul T. and Sarin, Lindsay C. (2016) "All Librarianship is Political: Educate Accordingly,"
"The Political Librarian: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 8."
Available at: <http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/pollib/vol2/iss1/8>

Claiming that libraries ought to be liberal institutions that take 'no substantive political position' is a political position in and of itself. And it is *not* a neutral one (if such a thing is even possible).

nina de jesus (2014) Locating the Library in Institutional Oppression. In the library with the lead pipe. <http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2014/locating-the-library-in-institutional-oppression/>



Question Everything (Nullius in verba) Take nobody's word for it | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from -

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BUILDING



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RADICAL LIBRARIANS COLLECTIVE

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@RADICALLIBS

WEBSITE

RLC.RADICALLIBRARIANSHIP.ORG

JOURNAL

JOURNAL.RADICALLIBRARIANSHIP.ORG



RESOURCE
CENTRE:
←
RADICAL LIBRARY
CAMP.

with public house
and libraries?

Skills to
broadening
mind



No network
& labour
organisator.

Jobs as
basis for
power
access
information

Student
fears lack of
jobs



Uncertainty
Cause anxiety

Can't play the game
as makes it obvious

→ does not regenerate

Value & library
Intangible

Jobs title
change to
"Customer service"
in library

com

10:00
-10:25

MAIN
Room

Room
1

Room
2

PLENARY

NEUTRAL EDUCATION

- Creating critical + open thinkers through lit.
- Radical lit in collections
- Reading list + discussion groups
- Create collab reading list for US + 4 or 5th.

CENSORSHIP

- Talk to colleagues to ensure it don't slip into censorship
- Politics are not the answer
- Community + voices involved
- Workshop

Public Service



14:30-
15:25
15:30-
16:30
PLe

LIS open access declaration

We believe that open access to all scholarly research is a public good. In accordance with statements in support of open access including the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) and the [IFLA Statement on Open Access to Scholarly Literature and Research Documentation](#), we affirm that the products of our scholarship in any form should be made openly accessible as a means to support a more sustainable and inclusive system of scholarship and to reduce information inequality.

As library and information professionals with an ethical standpoint of ‘access for all’ we believe that our profession must live up to its ideals and principles of accessibility and information sharing. The scholarly communication process has moved too far from these ideals and we feel that it is now time to affirm our support for open scholarship.

Therefore, we the undersigned, pledge to make **ALL OF OUR WORK** open access wherever possible. This may include: placing versions of our work in institutional and disciplinary repositories, publishing in open access journals, refusing to perform editorial or refereeing work for closed access journals, retaining copyright to our work, and licensing our work for broad and expansive re-use using [Creative Commons licenses](#) (with a preference for [CC-BY](#) wherever possible).



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Journal of Radical Librarianship

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Focus and Scope

Journal of Radical Librarianship is an open access journal publishing high quality, rigorously reviewed and innovative scholarly work in the field of radical librarianship. It also publishes non-peer-reviewed commentary and reviews. The scope of the journal is any work that contributes to a discourse around critical library and information theory and practice. The subject areas listed below should be regarded as indicative rather than exhaustive.

For the peer-reviewed section, there are seven Editors with responsibility for articles depending on their subject:

- Information literacy - Katherine Lynch
- Politics and social justice - Ian Clark
- Scholarly communication - Kevin Sanders and Stuart Lawson
- Equality and diversity - Liz Chapman
- Library history - Simon Barron
- Management and professionalism - Andrew Preater
- Political economy of information and knowledge - Stuart Lawson and Kevin Sanders

Section Policies

Articles

Peer-reviewed research and theory articles in the field of radical librarianship. Interdisciplinary in scope, this includes any work that contributes to a discourse around critical library and information theory and practice.

CRYPTO

Figure in the Fog | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mtsofan/8180428397/>
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#radlibchat

PROBLEMATIC



DIY



As soon as “immediate results” become the principal aim of our activity, the clear-cut, irreconcilable point of view...will be found more and more inconvenient. The direct consequence of this will be the adoption by the party...diplomatic conciliation. But this attitude cannot be continued for a long time...the logical consequence of such a program must necessarily be disillusionment.

- Rosa Luxemburg

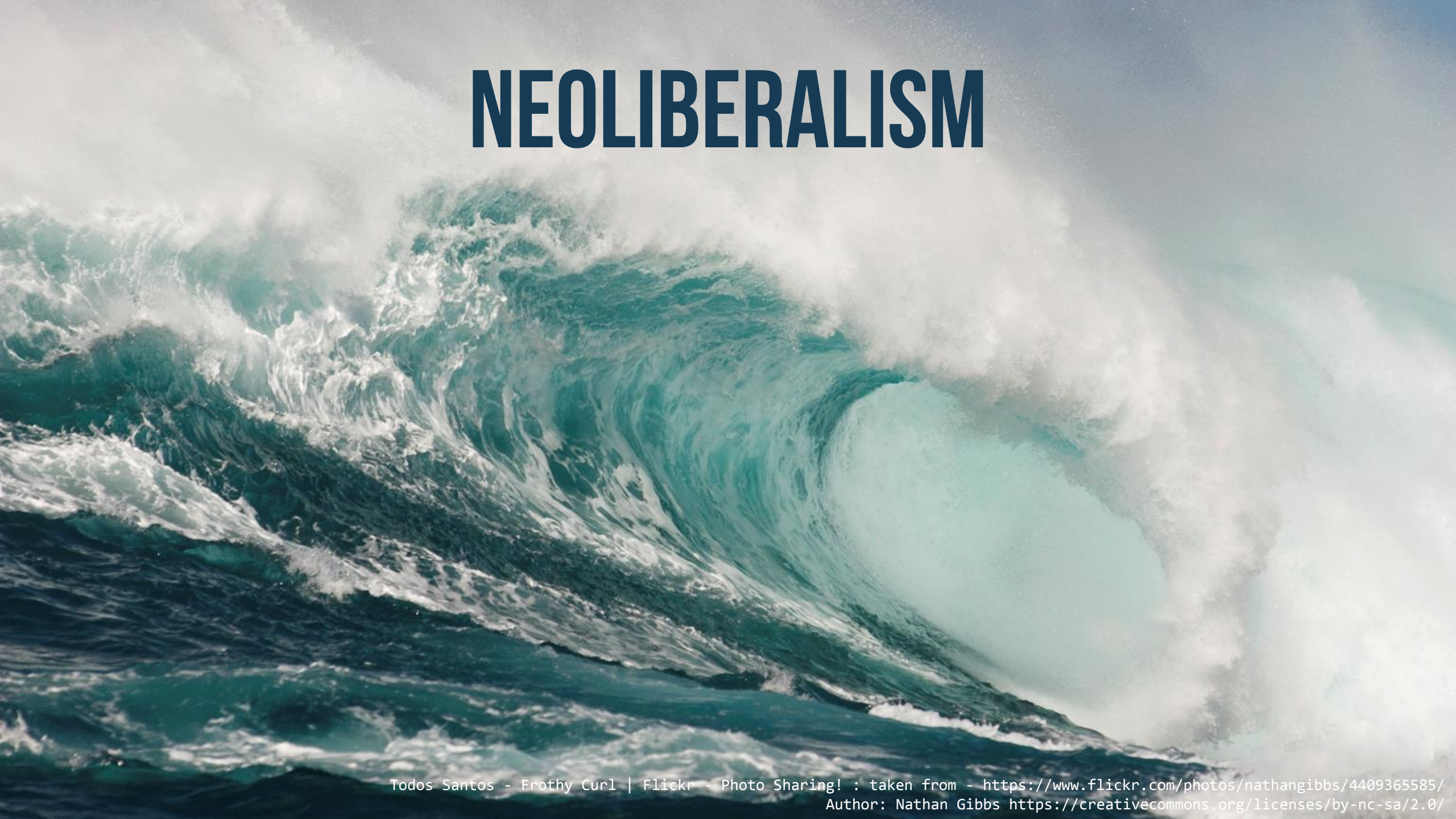
“Whiteness has permeated every aspect of librarianship, extending even to the initiatives we commit to increasing diversity.”

- April Hathcock

HORIZONTALIST



NEOLIBERALISM



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RESISTANCE



Thank you



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CROWD SOURCED READING LISTS

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CONTACT

-

TWITTER

@IJCLARK

EMAIL

IJCLARK@RISEUP.NET

IJCLARK@PROTONMAIL.COM

VERIFY

IJCLARK.INFOISM.CO.UK